

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 /071 W

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R 130925Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 298

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1863

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT STATUS OF FARAKKA BARRAGE

1. DURING MY CALL TODAY ON FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN, HE BROUGHT ME UP TO DATE ON CURRENT STATUS OF BDG'S DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA ABOUT FARAKKA BARRAGE. HE SAID THAT, FOLLOWING RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AND BDG OFFICIALS, GOI HAD SENT BDG A NEW NOTE ON APRIL 11 PROPOSING 1) THAT A TECHNICAL DELEGATION COME TO BANGLADESH IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COLLECT DATA ON EFFECTS OF FARAKKA BARRAGE; AND 2) THAT SUBSEQUENTLY A HIGH-LEVEL INDIAN GOODWILL MISSION COME TO DACCA FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, THIS DELEGATION TO INCLUDE A FARAKKA COMPONENT. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT BDG HAD TODAY DELIVERED ITS REPLY TO GOI IN WHICH IT HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE ORDER OF THESE VISITS BE REVERSTED, I.E., THAT THE VISIT OF A GOODWILL DELEGATION SHOULD PRECEDE THE TECHNICAL TEAM'S VISIT, AND FURTHER THAT A PARALLEL VISIT BE MADE TO INDIA BY A BDG TECHNICAL

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DELEGATION WHICH COULD EXAMINE THE FARAKKA BARRAGE

QUESTION ON THE INDIAN SIDE, FOR EXAMPLE AT THE FARAKKA BARRAGE SITE AND AT THE CALCUTTA PORT. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD PROPOSED THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TAKE PLACE APRIL 15-20.

2. EXPLAINING WHY THEY HAD PROPOSED REVERSAL IN THE VISITS, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THAT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS HAD GONE ON A LONG TIME WITHOUT RESULT AND THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS A DISCUSSION IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT THE BASIS FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. WHEN I ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE GOI WOULD ACCEPT THE BANGLADESH POSITION, INCLUDING THE DISPATCH OF BDG DELEGATION TO INDIA, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY CONFIDENTLY SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD FIND THIS A POSITIVE STEP. I SAID I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT WE WELCOMED ANY STEP THAT PUT THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER AND OFFERED PROMISE OF PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE.
BOSTER

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NNN

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